

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been examined and rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 9-13 are cancelled. Claims 14-15 are added. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6-8 and 14-15 are all the claims pending in the present application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 7 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,946 to Takagi (“the ‘946 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,504,919 to Takagi (“the ‘919 patent”). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the ‘946 patent in view of the ‘919 patent and rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over the ‘919 patent. However, in view of the cancellation of these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are moot.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are amended as shown above.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, amendments to the claims have been overcome.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

As the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and in view of the amendments to claims 2, 4, 6 and 8, Applicant respectfully

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submits that these claims are now in a condition for allowance. In addition, claims 3 and d7 should also be allowable based at least on their dependence from claims 2 and 6, respectively. Likewise, new claims 14 and 15 should allowable at lest based on their dependence from claims 4 and 8, respectively.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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